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Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership (APNEP)  
June 2021

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# Albemarle - Pamlico

## National Estuary Partnership



# Sound Stories

June 2021



This month, the APNEP Team is excited to announce that we are now accepting applications for the [FY2021 Engagement and Stewardship Request for Proposals](#) (RFP)! We are accepting proposals through July 30th for environmental projects that address at least one of the [APNEP Engagement and Stewardship Team's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan \(CCMP\) Actions](#) and which take place within the Albemarle-Pamlico watershed. Up to a total of \$40,000 in funds may be awarded to two or more projects that will be funded for at least one year and up to three years. Please contact our Program Manager Heather Jennings with any questions at [heather.jennings@apnep.org](mailto:heather.jennings@apnep.org)!

Sincerely,  
Dr. Bill Crowell  
APNEP Director





Need funding for environmental education and citizen stewardship in the Albemarle-Pamlico region?



## APPLY FOR APNEP'S ENGAGEMENT & STEWARDSHIP GRANT



### Applications due July 30th

State, interstate, local, and tribal governments/agencies, nonprofits, and schools/universities may apply for up to \$20,000 in funding.

Proposals should address one or more of the following: water quality, submerged aquatic vegetation, coastal habitats, or increasing resiliency.

Contact [heather.jennings@apnep.org](mailto:heather.jennings@apnep.org) for assistance with the application process. Visit [tinyurl.com/apnepgrant](https://tinyurl.com/apnepgrant) for more details.



## Apply by 7/30 for APNEP's Engagement and Stewardship RFP

Need funding for environmental engagement and stewardship initiatives in the Albemarle-Pamlico region? APNEP is awarding a total of up to \$40,000 to two or more projects that increase citizen stewardship, volunteerism, and environmental literacy in the Albemarle-Pamlico area. Applications are due by midnight on July 30th. Find more info at [tinyurl.com/apnepgrant](https://tinyurl.com/apnepgrant) and please share this opportunity with your networks!

### Learn more about the Engagement and Stewardship RFP



Findings from the recent APNEP-funded [SAV Economic Valuation report](#) by the NC State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences [Center for Environmental and Resource Economic Policy](#) (CEnREP) and [Duke University Sanford School of Public Policy](#) were [featured by WUNC](#) and by [Coastal Review Online](#) this past month. The report quantifies the economic importance of submerged aquatic vegetation in the Albemarle-Pamlico estuary, showing that losses from declines in NC seagrass decline could reach \$88 million by 2030 if SAV is not protected.

### Read the SAV Economic Valuation Report



### Remote Water Level Monitoring Stations Installed

Due to low elevation and proximity to waterways, many areas of the Albemarle-Pamlico region are susceptible to flooding. In response, APNEP has funded the placement of three additional [NC Flood Inundation Mapping and Alert Network \(FIMAN\)](#) remote monitoring stations through the [NC Division of Emergency Management](#), the last of which was recently installed. Data from these gages will increase real-time knowledge of flood conditions in the Albemarle-Pamlico region, as well as contribute to knowledge used to address future water management actions in the watershed. [Learn more about this initiative.](#)

## Meeting Summaries

- **APNEP Science and Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (June 16th):** The meeting began with three presentations on (1) remote sensing of harmful algal blooms in Albemarle Sound, (2) the North Carolina oyster blueprint, and (3) draft proposal outline by the STAC environmental justice subcommittee to conduct an environmental justice assessment. The concluding session was a committee discussion on proposed objectives during the second half of 2021 for the seven

alternate, for each team providing preliminary thoughts. This was the first of the meeting where MAT reporting was instituted to promote stronger integration among the STAC and MATs, and is planned to be a regular agenda item at future STAC meetings.

- **NCCF Oyster Steering Committee Meeting (June 15th):** Members discussed the latest version of the [Oyster Blueprint](#) as well as initiatives that members are working on, including priority watershed planning efforts and living shorelines issues.
- **APNEP Low-Salinity Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Monitoring Subgroup Meeting (June 30th):** The SAV subgroup convened to discuss opportunities to conduct a field study in order to facilitate the development of a low-salinity SAV survey protocol.



## Upcoming Events & Meetings

All meetings associated with APNEP's committees, Action Teams, and Monitoring & Assessment Teams are free and open to the public. For more information, please contact [apnep@ncdenr.gov](mailto:apnep@ncdenr.gov).

- **APNEP Air Resources Monitoring and Assessment Team Meeting** | July 20, TBD (contact [apnep@ncdenr.gov](mailto:apnep@ncdenr.gov) for details)
- **Coastal Habitat Protection Plan Steering Committee Meeting** | August 3rd, TBD (contact [apnep@ncdenr.gov](mailto:apnep@ncdenr.gov) for details)
- **APNEP Science and Technical Advisory Committee Meeting** | August 18th, TBD (contact [apnep@ncdenr.gov](mailto:apnep@ncdenr.gov) for details)

## Current Grant Opportunities



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- Ongoing: [NC Sea Grant Minigrants Program](#)

[Grant details](#)

## Partner Spotlight



### NC Coastal Microplastics Forum To Be Held on 7/15

Want to learn more about microplastics in NC? Join our partners at the North Carolina Coastal Federation for the [NC Coastal Microplastics Forum](#) on July 15th, where they'll share ongoing work, explore the ways microplastics impact both human health and the natural environment, and discuss potential policy solutions. APNEP Watershed Manager Trish Murphey has been involved in adjacent efforts through the NC Marine Debris Action Plan Advisory and Implementation Team, which calls for a better understanding of microplastics and outlines the need for policy change to prevent microplastics from entering our waterways.

[Learn more and register for the Forum](#)

## What We're Reading

- [North Carolina Model Shows How States Benefit from Protecting Coastal Habitats](#) (Pew)

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- [Stormwater management can protect water quality: study](#) (*Coastal Review Online*)



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